

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

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FOR CLINGAN, OES/OFA, FROM NAKATSU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE ON U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL FISHERIES
AGREEMENTS

SUGGEST FOLLOWING DRAFT PRESS RELEASE BE CLEARED WITH NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

BEGIN TEXT:

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN
REACHED AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 13 ON TWO FISHERY AGREEMENTS
DEALING PRIMARILY WITH FISHING IN THE NORTHEASTERN
PACIFIC AND THE BERING SEA FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS HELD IN
TOKYO, NOVEMBER 15/DECEMBER 13. MR. THOMAS A. CLINGAN, JR.,
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF
STATE, INITIALED FOR THE UNITED STATES AND
MR. HIROMU FUKADA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AMERICAN
AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INITIALED
FOR JAPAN.

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THE FISHING AGREEMENT, FIRST SIGNED IN 1967, PROVIDES THAT JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM FISHING WITHIN THE NINE-MILE CONTIGUOUS FISHERY ZONE OF THE UNITED STATES, EXCEPT IN CERTAIN SELECTED AREAS, PRIMARILY IN THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.

UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, JAPAN'S LONG ESTABLISHED FISHERIES IN THE NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC AND EASTERN BERING SEA WILL BE SHARPLY REDUCED, HELPING TO ESTABLISH NEW AND BETTER BALANCES BETWEEN FISHING EFFORT AND THE CONDITION AND SIZE OF FISHERY RESOURCES IN THOSE REGIONS.

PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE NEW AGREEMENT INCLUDE:

1. REDUCTION IN THE JAPANESE POLLOCK CATCH IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA TO 1.1 MILLION METRIC TONS. IN 1973, JAPAN CAUGHT OVER 1.5 MILLION METRIC TONS OF POLLOCK BUT ITS CATCH WAS REDUCED SINCE THIS RESOURCE IS DECLINING.

2. FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES, CONTROLS HAVE ALSO BEEN PLACED ON THE HARVEST OF OTHER FIN FISHES, SUCH AS PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH IN BOTH THE BERING SEA AND IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC OCEAN IN AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THE U.S. FISHERIES. THESE CONTROLS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED BY MEANS OF CATCH LIMITATIONS, AREA AND TIME CLOSURES.

3. JAPAN IS PERMITTED TO FISH WITHIN THE CONTIGUOUS ZONE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO CONDUCT LOADING AND TRANSFER OPERATIONS IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED AREAS. IN RETURN, JAPAN HAS AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM FISHING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE HIGH SEAS DURING PRESCRIBED PERIODS IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH AMERICAN FISHERMEN ARISING OUT OF DIFFERENCES IN TYPES OF FISHING GEAR.

4. JAPAN ALSO AGREED TO TAKE PROCEDURES AND MEASURES TO REDUCE AND CONTROL INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF KING AND TANNER CRABS IN THEIR TRAWL FISHERIES. AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE, JAPANESE FISHERMEN WILL EQUIP THEIR TRAWL GEAR WITH BOBBINS DURING MONTHS WHEN CRABS ARE CONCENTRATED TO REDUCE INCIDENTAL CRAB CATCHES.

THE SECOND AGREEMENT INVOLVES FISHING FOR KING AND TANNER CRABS IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA. THESE FISHERIES ARE IMPORTANT TO BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. IN

THE MID-1960'S, JAPAN TOOK THE LARGEST SHARE OF THE KING CRAB CATCH, BUT THIS SITUATION HAS NOW COMPLETELY REVERSED ITSELF AND THE UNITED STATES NOW TAKES MOST OF THE CATCH. IN 1974, THE UNITED STATES TOOK APPROXIMATELY 95PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CATCH.

UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, JAPAN'S KING CRAB QUOTA WAS REDUCED BY NEARLY SIXTY PERCENT, FROM 700,000 TO 300,000 CRABS (953 METRIC TONS). JAPAN'S TANNER CRAB QUOTA (14 MILLION IN 1974) WAS REDUCED BY A MUCH SMALLER PERCENTAGE, BUT THAT PORTION OF THEIR TOTAL QUOTA WHICH CAN BE TAKEN IN THE TRADITIONAL AND MORE PRODUCTIVE GROUNDS, WHICH ARE FISHED ALSO BY U.S. FISHERMEN, WAS REDUCED BY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT (ABOUT 70-80 PERCENT) TO PERMIT U.S. FISHERMEN PREFERENCES IN HARVESTING THE CRABS IN THESE GROUNDS. JAPAN IS PERMITTED TO DEVELOP FISHERIES FOR CRABS IN THE AREA TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS MEAN THAT U.S. FISHERMEN WILL GAIN PRINCIPAL CONTROL OVER THE CRAB RESOURCES IN THE TRADITIONAL GROUNDS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN BERING SEA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES CLAIMS BOTH THE KING AND TANNER CRABS TO CONSTITUTE "CREATURES OF THE U.S. CONTINENTAL SHELF" AND THAT WE HAVE COMPLETE JURISDICTION OVER THESE RESOURCES.

THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO REFRAIN FROM POLLUTING THE SEAS AND TO AVOID DUMPING UNDESIRABLE PRODUCTS IN THE WATER. BOTH GOVERNMENTS ALSO AGREED TO INFORM EACH OTHER OF LOST FISHING GEAR WHICH MAY CREATE DANGER TO NAVIGATION.

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THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT MEASURES MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE EVER IMPLEMENTED BEFORE, WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREEING TO COOPERATE FULLY IN THEIR ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, U.S. OBSERVERS WILL BE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE CONDUCT OF ENFORCEMENT AND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM JAPAN.

THE U.S. DELEGATION INCLUDED, AMONG OTHERS, MR. ROBERT SCHONING, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FISHING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALASKA AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, AS WELL AS EXPERTS FROM THE CONCERNED FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. (DECLASSIFY JANUARY 16, 1975)

END TEXT.
HODGSON

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